

Calvary M.E. Church
East side of Calvary Road
Churchville, MD 21028

HA-997

Calvary Methodist Church was founded in 1821 by Reverend Richard Webster, who lived in Webster's Forest (HA-442). By 1825, the church was already hosting large camp meetings regularly bringing hundreds of people to camp on the grounds while visiting preachers slept in the Church.

Built 40 years after the Deer Creek Friends Meeting House (1784) and 40 years before the Mount Carmel Methodist Church (1865), the Cavalry Methodist Church is an important link in the county's tradition of one-story, gable-roofed stone churches. The earlier meeting house belongs to the patented Quaker idiom, the later to the more elegant and formal Greek Revival style. Calvary Methodist church, more primitive architecturally than both, represents the founding of the new Methodist tradition in Harford County and stylistically has no links to other traditions: it represents a logical, unself-conscious use of local resources--a vernacular church in the best sense of the word.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Cavalry Methodist Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

east side of Cavalry Road

CITY, TOWN

Churchville,

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland 21028

COUNTY
Harford**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Contact:
Mary Volz

Telephone #: 734-6669

STREET & NUMBER

412 Cavalry Road

CITY, TOWN

Churchville,

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21028**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air,

STATE
Maryland 21014**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

_FEDERAL _STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

HA-997

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built between 1821 and 1824, this austere, gable-roofed stone church is located on the east side of Cavalry Road, south of Snake Lane. The structure is a simple four bay by two bay block with no exterior ornament except for the stone quoins and massive lintels, and louvered and panelled shutters on the south and north sides, respectively. The roof has a wide overhang with exposed eaves. Each side has four 12/12 sash windows, and the west end has two elongated eight-light windows. The church is entered from the east end by two four-panel doors with five-light transoms. Also in this end are two 6/6 sash windows in the second story and a louvered opening in the gable (even the latter has a giant lintel).

Inside, the church consists of one room with an enclosed balcony (now used for the Sunday School). The two-run staircase with square balusters is in the southeast corner. The pulpit (made by Louis Mitchell) and raised altar are in the west end. The railing with heavily-turned balusters and newel posts is not the original one. The stained glass windows behind the altar have yellow panes with green borders and red corner panes.

Now enclosed, the balcony where the slaves sat has a panelled railing and rests on Doric columns.

The room has a beaded board wainscot and ceiling, although the original ceiling was arched.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cavalry Methodist Church was founded by Reverend Richard Webster, who lived nearby and owned the mill at Calvary. With his son, Richard Webster Jr., and his wife, Rachel, he conveyed the land to the trustees of the church on September 15, 1821, for five shillings. With the help of others, Richard Webster, Jr. built the church, and Samuel Dever, whose blacksmith shop stood in the northernmost field, made the nails.

Richard Webster, Sr., lived just to see it completed. Freeborn Garnettson wrote on April 25, 1824, "On the Lord's Day, in the morning I preached with much satisfaction in Abingdon Church, and then rode six miles and preached in a neat church, lately built in the forest, under the direction of old Reverend Webster, who at this time was dangerously ill. I was sent for to visit him and found him nigh unto death, joyfully waiting until his time should come. He was among the first who embraced religion when Methodist Preachers made their entrance into this part of the country about 56 years ago." (1825 Richard Tydings and W.S. Lumsden).

The first trustees were William D. Lee, William Billingslea, William Walters, William Smith, Richard Webster, Henry Webster, and Isaac Webster. The first minister, according to the church's first Bible, was Mr. Everist. Other records (in the possession of Mr. W. L. Baker) list the ministers as James Reid and N.B. Mills in 1821, Alfred Griffith and Henry Slicer in 1822, Asa Shinn and Joseph L. Gibbon in 1823, and Richard Tydings and Bazil Barry in 1824.

The Sunday School was probably not organized until 1863 and its first leaders were Annie Dever and Clara Lee and then Noah Webster and A.W. Kimble.

This church hosted a great many camp meetings. In the Harford Circuit Quarterly Conference Records (1799-1830), there is mention of a camp meeting held at Calvary in 1825. These had their beginning in America during the Great Revival, a period of deep religious fervor spanning the years between the American Revolution and the Civil War. Often camp meetings were served by a circuit rider-an itinerate horse-back preacher man. It is not known if this is how the Cavalry Methodist Church was operated continuously. However, the tradition probably started early, as Methodist Bishop Francis Asbury wrote in 1811 to circuit rider Jacobs Gruber "camp meetings were held in practically every state of the union." Camp meetings were generally non-denominational, but the Methodist Episcopal Church seems to have been the forerunner and principal adherent.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cavalry Methodist Episcopal Church Records
Lovely Lane Museum archives
Harford Circuit Quarterly (1799-1830)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Natalie Shivers, Historic Sites Surveyor	
ORGANIZATION Harford County Historic District Commission	DATE May, 1979
STREET & NUMBER 45 S. Main St.	TELEPHONE 301-879-2000 ext. 207
CITY OR TOWN Bel Air,	STATE MD 21014

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

According to the church's records, hundreds of people encamped on the grounds of the Cavalry Church, while visiting preachers slept in the church. Camp meetings in general lasted from four days to a week, and included preaching, singing, and socializing. Camp meeting time was determined by crops and was usually planned for "laying by time"-the lull between the first grain harvesting and early corn cutting when farmers could leave their fields.

Built 40 years after the Deer Creek Friends Meeting House (1784) and forty years before the Mount Carmel Methodist Church (1865) the Cavalry Methodist Church is an important link in the county's tradition of one-story, gable-roofed stone churches. The vertical proportions, long 9/9 sash windows, gable returns, and single end entrance, make the Greek revival Mt. Carmel Church the most elegant and formal of the three. Built in the simple Quaker manner, Deer Creek is low and broad with panelled shutters and side as well as end entrances. Cavalry Methodist church is more rustic than both of the others. Less horizontal than Deer Creek, though without the attenuation of Mt. Carmel, its massive stone lintels and quoins give this building a primitive quality not present in the other two. Deer Creek and Mt. Carmel are linked to other established architectural idioms; this one arose more as a logical, unself-conscious use of local resources.

INVENTORY NO. HA-997

ELECTION DISTRICT _____

DATE: _____

TAX MAP NO. _____

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

PARCEL NO. _____

NAME OF PROPERTY: Cavalry ME Church

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: East side Calvary Rd. near Churchville

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: East

NAME OF OWNER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

STORIES: 1[XX] 2[] 3[] 4[] 5[] 6[] BAYS:

WINGS, ADDITIONS:

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten(type?)
- BRICK: Bond type- common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
- STONE: Bond type- rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
- LOG

WALL FEATURES: BELT COURSE, PILASTERS, OTHERS _____

FOUNDATIONS: HIGH, LOW, BRICK, ~~STONE~~

WATER TABLE: NONE, PLAIN, BEVELED, MOULDED BRICK

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1[] 2/2[] 6/6[] 9/6[] 9/9[] other[X]
pegged[] nailed[] wide[] narrow[X]
original[] replaced[]

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: 2--east end
HARDWARE: original[] replaced[]
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: Exposed
original[] replaced[]

ROOF: GABLE FRONT, GABLE FLANK, HIP, MANSARD, FLAT, DORMERS
MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt original[] replaced[]

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed[] hip[] gable[]

CHIMNEYS: NUMBER 1 BRICK[X] STONE[] CORBELED[] original[] replaced[]
LOCATION: South side

ARCHES:

COMMENTS:

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

130997⁵309

HA-997

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Calvary Methodist Church

AND/OR COMMON
Calvary Methodist Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Calvary Road

CITY, TOWN
Churchville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
first

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Harford County

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Calvary Methodist Church Inc.
Rev Reginald Cecil

Telephone #: 734-7113

STREET & NUMBER
3111 Churchville Road

CITY, TOWN
Churchville

STATE, zip code
MD 21028

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: HD 5 GSN 12
Folio #: 253 408

STREET & NUMBER
45 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Bel Air

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

NK-777

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Calvary Methodist Church is located on Calvary Road (MD 136) just north of James Run. This simple, stone masonry structure is located on high ground and faces east.

This structure is one story high and four bays by two. The high pitched roof has been **refurbished** and is now covered with asphalt shingles. This gable front roof has wide eaves and a stone cornice. Entrance is gained on the east gable. Two large doors are at this end. These wooden doors have four moulded panels on each. Door knobs are brass and are located in the center of each door. A five light transom is located over each door. Windows at the first elevation are twelve lights over twelve. Shutters are present. The older, wooden moulded panel shutters are being replaced by louvered shutters. On the east end there are two windows at the second elevation. These are six lights over six. Near the point of the roof is a small, louvered window. A datestone above the doors in the center of the east side read: Calvary Church 1821, P.A. On the west end, near the point of the roof is a space where a datestone or vent may have been.

Masonry in this structure is especially notable: black basalt stones were dressed for use in the lintels and cornerstones, and are found at random with smaller grey granite set in fairly even courses.

A brick narrow chimney is located on the south west corner of the roof and has an open arch. Originally, there had been one on each side.

Inside, there is a balcony at the east end of the church, which has been enclosed to conserve heat. The ceilings in the church were originally dome shaped and this is visible in the loft. Walls and ceilings are plastered and chimney flues are visible on both the north and south walls. These had served two iron stoves. A stairway on the south east corner leads to the loft. The altar is located at the west end and still has the original communion rail. The pulpet, however has been moved and lowered.

A stone school house had been located west of the church. This was demolished in the 1930's.

A Webster family burial plot lies directly behind the church on the west side. It is separated from the rest of the cemetery by a wrought iron fence. Many prominent members of this community are buried in this cemetery.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

HA-997

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Harford County
Calvary United Methodist Church Booklet celebrating
its 150th anniversary
Personal notes of Mrs. George (Mary) Volz

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This land is bounded on the west by Calvary Road; on the south by a dirt lane; and on the north and east by the Davis Quarry Company.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Susan M. Deeney, Field Historian

November 18, 1976

ORGANIZATION

Historic District Commission

DATE

838-6000 ext. 207

STREET & NUMBER

45 South Main Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

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Geological Survey Map
Bel Air Quadrangle
7.5 Minute Series

HA 9971

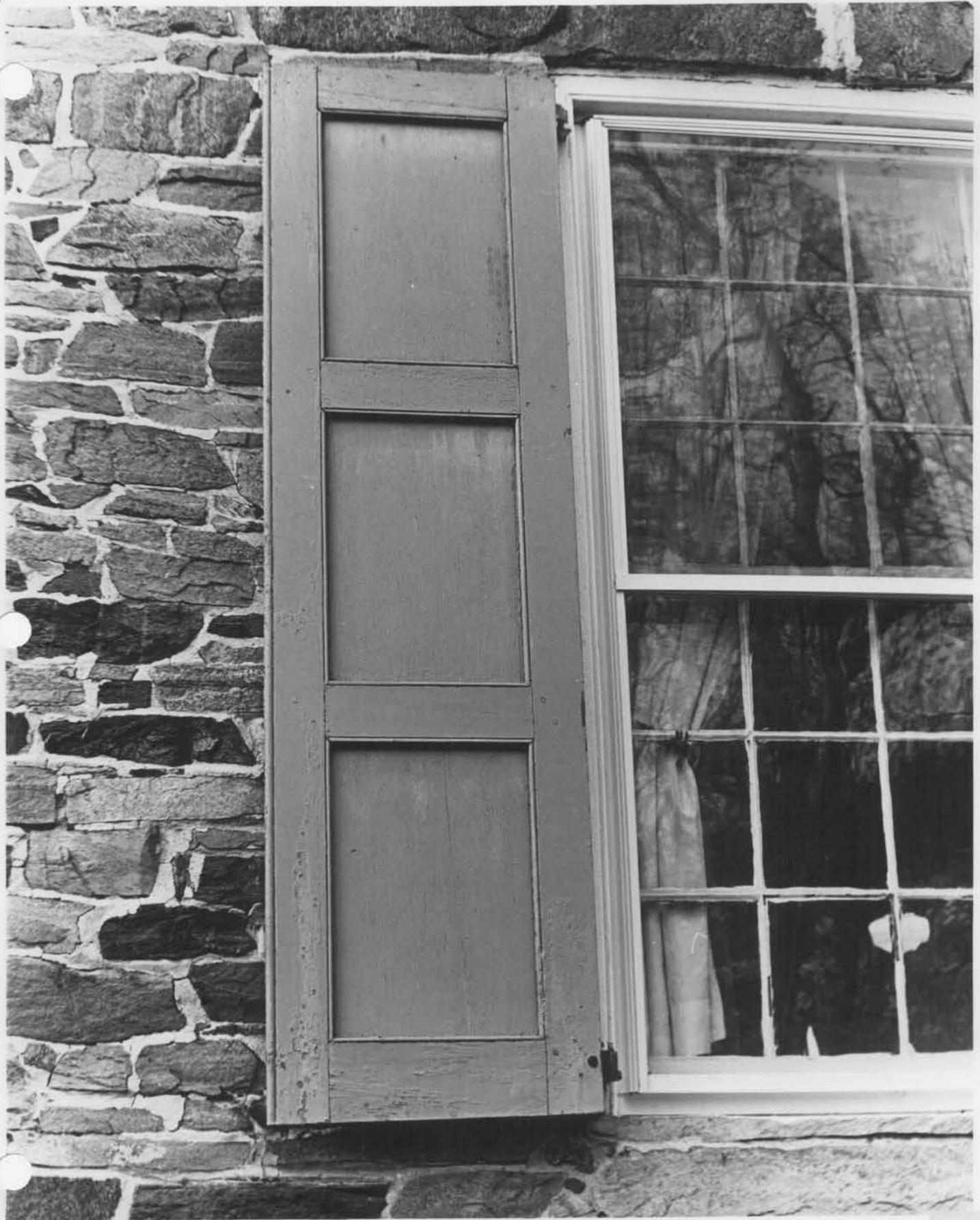


CALVARY METHODIST CHURCH
near Churchville, Md.

HA-997

view from southwest
Photo by James T.
Wollon, Jr.

May 1978



CALVARY METHODIST CHURCH
near Churchville, Md.
HA-997

detail of shutter on
east side

Photo by James T.
Wollon, Jr.

May 1978



HA-997

Cavalry Methodist Church
Churchville, MD 21028
N. Shivers
February, 1979
Southeast



HA-997

Cavalry Methodist Church
Churchville, MD 21028

N. Shivers
February, 1979
Northwest



Calvary Methodist Church HA-997
Churchville, MD
Susan M. Deeney
November, 1976
Southeast